

COTTAM & Co.,
OUTFITTERS,
CHRISTY'S BATH GOWNS
do. do. TOWELS,
BATHING DRESSES,
PYJAMAS.
KENT'S HAIR & TOOTH BRUSHES,
SOAPS, PERFUMERY,
do. do. do.

The Hongkong Telegraph.

ESTABLISHED 1861.

NEW SERIES No. 447 日二十月八年二十二號光

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 1896.

五
號八十月九英港

ODOE
THE MEDICAL HALL
DEUTSCHE APOTHEKE,
70, QUEEN'S ROAD CENTRAL,
Hongkong.

THIRTY DOLLARS
PER ANNUM.

BANKS.

THE CHARTERED BANK OF INDIA,
AUSTRALIA AND CHINA.

INCORPORATED BY ROYAL CHARTER, 1853.
HEAD OFFICE—LONDON.

CAPITAL PAID-UP \$100,000
RESERVE LIABILITY OF SHARE-
HOLDERS \$100,000
RESERVE FUND \$35,000

INTEREST ALLOWED on CURRENT
ACCOUNT at the Rate of a per cent. per
annum on the Daily Balance.

On Fixed Deposits for 12 months, 4 per cent.
" " 6 " " 3 " "
" " 3 " " 2 " "

T. H. WHITEHEAD,
Manager, Hongkong.
Hongkong, 16th September, 1896. [53]

HONGKONG AND SHANGHAI
BANKING CORPORATION.

PAID-UP CAPITAL \$10,000,000
RESERVE FUND \$6,000,000
RESERVE LIABILITY OF PROPRIETORS \$10,000,000

COURT OF DIRECTORS:

A. McCOACHIE, Esq.—Chairman.
St. C. MICHAELSEN, Esq.—Deputy Chairman.
Hon. J. J. Bell-Irving, J. P. Krauer, Esq.
G. B. Dodwell, Esq.—D. R. Sandon, Esq.
M. D. Ezekiel, Esq.—R. Shewen, Esq.
R. M. Gray, Esq.—N. A. Sleis, Esq.

CHIEF MANAGER:

Hongkong—T. JACKSON, Esq.
MANAGERS:

Shanghai—J. P. Wade, Gardiner, Esq.—
LONDON BANKERS—LONDON COUNTY
BANKING COMPANY, LIMITED.

HONGKONG—INTEREST ALLOWED
On Current Account at the rate of a per cent.
per annum on the daily balance.

INTEREST ON FIXED DEPOSITS:

For 3 months, 3½ per cent. per annum.
For 6 months, 3¾ per cent. per annum.
For 12 months, 4 per cent. per annum.
T. JACKSON,
Chief Manager.
Hongkong, 15th August, 1896. [53]

HONGKONG SAVINGS BANK.

THE Business of the above Bank is conducted by the HONGKONG AND SHANGHAI BANKING CORPORATION. Rules may be obtained on application.

INTEREST on deposits is allowed at 3½ per cent. per annum.

Depositors may transfer at their option balances of \$100 or more to the HONGKONG AND SHANGHAI BANK to be placed on FIXED DEPOSIT at 4 PER CENT. per annum.

For the HONGKONG AND SHANGHAI
BANKING CORPORATION,

T. JACKSON,
Chief Manager.

Hongkong, 1st August, 1896. [53]

THE NATIONAL BANK OF CHINA,
LIMITED.

Authorized Capital \$1,000,000
Subscribed Capital \$500,000

HEAD OFFICE—HONGKONG.

Court of Directors:

D. Gillies, Esq.—Chow Ting Shang, Esq.
H. Stollberg, Esq.—Kwan Ho Chuen, Esq.
Cham Kit Shan, Esq.

Chief Manager,

GEO. W. F. PLAYFAIR.

Interest for 12 months Fixed, 5 per cent.

Hongkong, 23rd October, 1896. [53]

CARBO LINUM MAVENARIUS
USED FOR 22 YEARS.
With the Utmost Success.

Thoroughly reliable preservative for Wood
and Stone against White Ants, Decay, Fungus
Rot and Damppness.

Sole Agents for China,

SCHEELE & CO.

Hongkong, 15th May, 1896. [53]

Intimations.

EXPLOSION IMPOSSIBLE.

JASTRAM'S PATENT
GOLDEN MEDAL
PETROLEUM ENGINES
OF 1 TO 12 H.P.
FOR FACTORIES AND LAUNCHES.
WORKED BY ORDINARY PETROLEUM.

Consumption of Petroleum 1 lb. per H.P. and Hour.
A Working Stationary Engine and a Launch with a 1/2 H.P.

Engine will be shown and full particulars be given on application.

SCHEELE & CO., Hongkong,
Sole Agents for the East.

471 NO PROFESSIONAL ENGINEER REQUIRED.

THE CLUB HOTEL,
5, BUND, YOKOHAMA.

FIRST-CLASS HOTELS, centrally situated, with all the Conveniences under the Supervision of approved French Chef has no equal. ENTIRE FOREIGN MANAGEMENT.

The Hotel steam-launch with European Agent attends arrivals and departures; every assistance given in clearing luggage and affording information. Passengers are met at the Railway Station.

VISITORS have the option of meeting either in TOKYO or YOKOHAMA, without extra charge—the ONLY HOTEL OFFERING SUCH AN ADVANTAGE. EUROPEAN HAIR DRESSER on the Premises.

Certified Letters are in attendance at both Hotels.

THE CLUB HOTEL COMPANY, LIMITED, PROPRIETORS.

E. V. SIOEN, Manager,
YOKOHAMA.

HOTEL
METROPOLE,
1, TSUKIJI, TOKYO.

ENTIRE FOREIGN MANAGEMENT.

The Hotel steam-launch with European Agent attends arrivals and departures; every assistance given in clearing luggage and affording information. Passengers are met at the Railway Station.

VISITORS have the option of meeting either in TOKYO or YOKOHAMA, without extra charge—the ONLY HOTEL OFFERING SUCH AN ADVANTAGE. EUROPEAN HAIR DRESSER on the Premises.

Certified Letters are in attendance at both Hotels.

THE CLUB HOTEL COMPANY, LIMITED, PROPRIETORS.

L. DEWETTE, Manager,
TOKYO.

470

Intuitions.

PENINSULAR AND ORIENTAL STEAM
NAVIGATION COMPANY.

FOR	STEAMERS	CAPTAINS	TO SALE	REMARKS
JAPAN, &c.	Ceylon	X. G. Andrews	12th Sept.	(Freight or Passage through the Island Sea.)
SHANGHAI, &c.	Malacca	G. C. Henning, R.N.R.	12th Sept.	(Freight or Passage.)
SHANGHAI	Macassar	J. F. Japanese	12th Sept.	(Freight or Passage.)
LONDON, &c.	Admiral & Fleet	C. L. Daniel	12th Sept.	(See Special Advertisement.)
JAPAN	Amakiri	W. D. Middle	12th Sept.	(Freight or Passage.)
LONDON, &c.	Castor	A. G. Cubitt, R.N.R.	12th Sept.	(Freight or Passage.)

For Further Particulars, apply to

H. A. RITCHIE, Superintendent.

Hongkong, 18th September, 1896. [43]

W. POWELL & CO.
GREAT SALE
FOR
ONE WEEK ONLY.
IMMENSE REDUCTIONS.

W. POWELL & CO.

Hongkong, 14th September, 1896. [43]

TRY IT!

A MOST DELICIOUS

SPARKLING WINE

EQUAL TO THE BEST

CHAMPAGNE

AT

HALF THE PRICE.

NOTE THE PRICE.

Per Case of 1 doz. Quarts \$20.

Per Case of 2 doz. Pints \$12.

LANE, CRAWFORD & CO.

Hongkong, 1st September, 1896. [43]

THE HONGKONG BUTCHERY.
VEAL SAUSAGES.

25 CENTS PER POUND.

J. TATAM,
PROPRIETOR.

Hongkong, 1st September, 1896. [43]

GUINNESS'S
EXTRA FOREIGN STOUT.

"HORSE HEAD" BRAND.

Guaranteed the BEST QUALITY BREWED.

LONDON, BREWERY.

Each bottle bears GUINNESS'S LABEL.

It is the BEST and CHEAPEST bottling of GUINNESS'S

STOUT to be obtained.

Per Case of 4 doz. Quarts \$12.

Per Case of 8 doz. Pints \$12.

SOLE AGENTS—

CALBECK, MACGREGOR & CO.

13, Queen's Road.

Hongkong, 5th September, 1896. [43]

MEATS

FOR SALE.

G. H. MUMM & CO. CHAMPAGNE.

In Cases of 12 doz. Pints \$15 per case.

do. 12 oz. Quarts \$12.

do. 12 oz. Bottles \$10.

do. 12 oz. Flasks \$12.

do. 12 oz. Glasses \$12.

do. 12 oz. Bottles \$12.

do. 12 oz. Glasses \$12.

do. 12 oz. Bottles \$12.

do. 12 oz. Glasses \$12.

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To-day's
Advertisements.

HONGKONG RIFLE ASSOCIATION.
COMPETITION.

THERE will be SPOON COMPETITION
TO-MORROW (SATURDAY), the 19th
instant, over the 100, 300 and 600 yards
distances, Seven Shots and "Sighler" at each.
Firing to commence at 2.30 P.M.

F. SMYTH,
Honorary Secretary,
Hongkong, 18th September, 1896. [1459]

TO LET.

HOUSE No. 7, DES VUUX VILLAS,
PEAK, containing SIX BED-ROOMS
and SIX BATH-ROOMS.
HOUSES Nos. 1 and 2, BEACONFIELD
ARCade, facing PARADE GROUND.
OFFICE in BEACONFIELD ARCade.
HOUSE No. 17, HELIOS TERRACE.
GODOWNS in DUDDELL STREET.
Apply to BELLIOS & Co.

Hongkong, 18th September, 1896. [1457]

NOTICE TO CONSIGNEES.

THE P. & O. S. N. Co.'s Steamship
"PEKIN,"

FROM BOMBAY, COLOMBO AND
STRAITS.

Consignees of Cargo by the above-named
vessel are hereby informed that their Goods are
being landed and placed at their risk in the
Hongkong and Kowloon Wharf and Godown
Company's Godowns at Kowloon, where each
consignment will be sorted out mark by mark
and delivery can be obtained as soon as the
Goods are landed.

This vessel brings on Cargo:-

From London, &c., 1/2 S.S. *Parramatta*,
From Persian Gulf, 1/2 B. L. S. N. Co. and
Bombay Persian S.N. Co.'s Steamers.

Optional goods will be landed here unless
instructions are given to the contrary before 2
P.M. TO-DAY.

Goods not cleared by the 24th instant at 4
P.M. will be subject to rent.

No Fire Insurance will be effected by me in
any case whatever.

All damaged Packages must be left in the
Godowns and a certificate of the damage
obtained from the Godown Company within ten
days after the Vessel's arrival here after which
no Claims will be recognised.

H. A. RITCHIE,
Superintendent.

Hongkong, 18th September, 1896. [1458]

FOR KOBE AND YOKOHAMA.

THE Steamship
"NANYO MARU"
will be despatched for the above Ports
on SUNDAY, the 20th instant, at Daylight,
instead of as previously advertised.

For Freight or Passage, apply to

DODWELL, CARLILL & Co.,
Agents.

Hongkong, 18th September, 1896. [1454]

DOUGLAS STEAMSHIP COMPANY,
LIMITED.

FOR SWATOW, AMOV AND TAMSUI.

THE Company's Steamship
"HAIMUN."

Captain Bartholomew will be despatched for the
above Ports on SUNDAY, the 20th instant, at
Daylight.

For Freight or Passage, apply to

DOUGLAS LAPRAIK & Co.,
General Managers.

Hongkong, 18th September, 1896. [1455]

NORDDEUTSCHER LLOYD.

STEAM TO
YOKOHAMA, KOBE AND NAGASAKI.
(Passing through the INLAND SEA.)

THE Company's Steamship
"HOHENZOLLERN."

Captain A. Harrasowitz, will leave for the above
Ports on about WEDNESDAY, the 23rd inst.

For further Particulars, apply to

MELCHERS & Co.,
Agents.

Hongkong, 18th September, 1896. [1447]

NORDDEUTSCHER LLOYD.

NOTICE.

STEAM TO SHANGHAI.

THE Company's Steamship
"PRINZ HEINRICH."

Captain Cuperus, due here with the outward
German Mail about the 22nd instant, will leave
for the above place about THURSDAY, the 24th
instant.

For further Particulars, apply to

MELCHERS & Co.,
Agents.

Hongkong, 18th September, 1896. [1447]

TELEGRAMS.

REUTER'S MESSAGE.

THE AUSTRIAN PRESS ON THE
ARMENIAN AGITATION.

LONDON, September 16th.

The Austrian press is alarmed at the agitation in
Great Britain in favour of intervention in
Turkey. It accuses Great Britain of fomenting
trouble, and declares that any isolated action on
the part of England is likely to end in her being
expelled from Egypt.

(From *L'Avenir du Tonkin*)

THE REBELLION IN THE PHILIPPINES.

PARIS, September 8th.

A very serious plot has been discovered in
Manila to overthrow the Spanish authority.
Reinforcements are being forwarded to Manila
from Mindanao.

PARIS, September 9th.

At Manila, the Spaniards took Silang after a
brilliant engagement; the rebels lost 50
killed.

MADAGASCAR.

PARIS, September 9th.

Great Britain has accepted without any
objection the new position of Madagascar as a
French Colony.

THE KAISER AND THE TSAR.

At the banquet given in honour of the Imperial
guests, the German Emperor, speaking in German,
thanked the Tsar, in the name of Germany,
for his visit to the country, where many
of his ancestors had sealed the friendship
between Russia and Germany.

The Tsar, speaking in French, replied that he
was deeply touched with the welcome of the
Emperor, and that he was animated with the
sentiments of his illustrious father.

DAKIN, CRUICKSHANK &
COMPANY, LIMITED,
VICTORIA DISPENSARY,
HONGKONG.

AERATED WATERS.

SIMPLY AERATED WATER.

SODA WATER.

GINGER ALE.

SARSAPARILLA.

RASPBERRYADE, &c.

DAKIN, CRUICKSHANK & Co.'s WATERS are
made under the constant supervision of a duly
qualified English Chemist and will be competi-
tive with the best English Manufactures.

Special terms to HOTELS, CLUBS, MESSRS and
other Large Consumers.

Any complaints should be addressed to the
Manager.

Hongkong, 3d May, 1896. [1459]

Intimations.

NOTICE.

I HAVE This Day commenced Business as a
GENERAL COMMISSION AGENT.
W. SHewan.
Hongkong, 20th July, 1896. [1449]

A. S. WATSON & CO.,
LIMITED.

ESTABLISHED A.D. 1841.

WINES
AND
SPIRITS.

ALL these are selected by our London House,
bought direct at first hand, imported in wood
and bottled by ourselves, thus saving all inter-
mediate profits, and enabling us to supply the
best growths at MODERATE PRICES.

PRICE LISTS, with Full Details, to be had on
Application.

PORt after removal should be tested a month
before use. When required for drinking at
once it should be ordered to be decanted at the
DISPENSARY before being sent out.

SHERRY.—Excellent Dinner and After Dinner
Wines of very superior Vintages. All are
true Xeres Wines.

CLARET.—Our Claret, including the lowest
Priced, are guaranteed to be the genuine
product of the juice of the grape and are not
artificially made from raisins and currants
as is generally the case with Cheap Wines.

BRANDY.—All our Brandy is guaranteed to be
pure COGNAC, the difference in price being
merely a question of age and vintage.

WHISKEY.—All our Whiskey is of excellent
quality and of greater age than most brands
in the market. The SCOTCH WHISKEY
marked "E" is universally popular, and is
pronounced by the best local connoisseurs
to be superior to any other brand in the
Hongkong market.

We only guarantee our WINES and SPIRITS
to be genuine when bought direct from us in the
Colony or from our authorised Agents at the
Coast Ports.

A WINe merchant informs us that Japanese beer
will not keep in casks for more than forty-eight
hours. What a thirsty race the Japs must be!

And what a libel on the far-famed "Kids" been
brewed at Yokohama!

IN ARKANSAS.—"What, stranger! You ask me
me if the United States kin lick Spain? Why,
strue, this here blessed State of Arkansas alone
kin lick any nation under the sun that wears
bangles on its pants!"

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will not keep in casks for more than forty-eight
hours. What a thirsty race the Japs must be!

And what a libel on the far-famed "Kids" been
brewed at Yokohama!

SCHOOLMASTER : "Now, boys, supposing that
the goddesses Diana, Venus, and Juno were to
appear before you, what would you do with this
apple?" Brown Minimus : "Please, sir, I'd eat
it before they asked for it."

We are informed by the General Managers of
the Olivers' Freshie Mines, Limited, that a
telegram has been received from Australia which
indicates the probable failure of the negotiations
for the sale of the joint properties.

THE Admiral's cruise in the north has come to an
end, and the major portion of his fleet are now
in Japanese waters—some at Nagasaki and the
others at Yokohama.

DEATH.

On the 14th August, at Southend, Essexshire,
England, aged 8 years, third son of ALFRED E.
and EMMA TURNER, formerly of Singapore,
Penang, and Sandakan, North Borneo.

PARIS, September 9th.

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SIMPLY AERATED WATER.

SODA WATER.

GINGER ALE.

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RASPBERRYADE, &c.

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Manager.

Hongkong, 3d May, 1896. [1459]

TELEGRAMS.

THE TSAR'S TOUR.

PARIS, September 9th.
The Tsar and Tsarina have arrived at
Copenhagen, where they will stay ten days.

(From *Le Figaro*.)

THE EASTERN CRISIS.

LONDON, September 6th.
The new Law embodying the newly granted
reforms has been promulgated in Crete.

LONDON, September 6th.
A French Squadron has been ordered to the
Levant, where there is already a powerful British
squadron.

QUITTE RIGHT!

LONDON, September 6th.
The two Arab editors whose papers, published
in Egypt, were suspended for publishing insul-
ting allegations respecting the Queen of England
have been sentenced to eighteen months' im-
prisonment.

LOCAL AND GENERAL.

H.M.S. *Centaur* is now at Nagasaki.

H.M.S. *Pigmy* arrived here this afternoon from
Nagasaki.

The British gunboat *Peacock* has proceeded
from Japan to Tientsin.

THE *Grafton*, *Erebus*, *Narcissus*, and
Undaunted are at Yokohama.

H.M.S. *Rainbow* and *Pegasus* are now
on their way to Hongkong from Japan.

* * * SPECIAL general meeting of members

THE HONGKONG TELEGRAPH, FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 1896.

THE RUSSO-CHINESE TELEGRAPH CONVENTION OF 25TH AUGUST, 1892.

[Communicated to *North China Daily News*, 21st November '94.]

An independent State has the absolute control of telegraphs within its territory. Junction of the telegraph lines of any two adjoining States can only be effected by a special Convention between those States.

The European Governments, with most of their dependencies and colonies, and some extra-European Governments, whose lines had previously been connected at the respective frontiers according to such special Conventions, have concluded the International Telegraph Convention of St. Petersburg 1875 (with the annexed Service Regulations revised at Paris 1890) containing the stipulations under which the contracting Parties agree to work their international lines.

The International Telegraph Convention is a voluntary agreement between the contracting Parties, from which agreement each of the contracting Governments has reserved to itself the right to withdraw altogether (Int. Telg. Conv. Art. 20) as well as the power to suspend the services of the international telegraphs for an indefinite period if it judges it necessary (Int. Telg. Conv. Art. 8).

The International Telegraph Office at Bern is the common secretariate established for the purpose of exchanging communications regarding their common business between such Telegraph Administrations as are parties to the International Convention. The United States of America, British North America, most of the South American States and some other countries are not parties to the International Telegraph Convention.

When China wished to connect her telegraph lines with the Russian telegraph lines on the Russo-Chinese frontier she had to conclude a convention with Russia for that purpose. There was no other means.

As far back as in 1865, Russia had invited China to establish such connection proposing that China should construct a telegraph line from Tientsin to Kliakta and there connect the Chinese line with the Russian lines. China at that time declined the invitation.

In 1869 Russia granted to the Great Northern Telegraph Company a concession for connecting, by submarine cables, the Russian telegraph system at Vladivostock with Nagasaki, Shanghai, Foochow, Amoy and Hongkong, subject to the necessary landing permission from the respective governments. Russia giving the Great Northern Telegraph Company, in consideration of the expenses incurred by the undertakers, certain guarantees against tariff competition from eventual Russo-Chinese landing connections, as far as regards the ports which the Great Northern Telegraph Company undertook to connect by submarine cables with the Russian telegraph system at Vladivostock.

In 1887 after China had introduced telegraphs and extended her lines to the Russian frontier, China on her side invited Russia to connect her with the frontier. Russia at once was willing; but as to the conditions for connection, she had necessarily to take into due consideration the above mentioned guarantees by which she had bound herself to the Great Northern Telegraph Company, *apart* China had rejected Russia's aforesaid original proposal of 1865 for an unconditional connection.

The negotiations on this point have now resulted in the conclusion of a telegraph convention between China and Russia, signed on the 25th August this year (1895).

According to this convention, which is concluded for ten years, the Chinese and Russian lines will be connected at three places on the frontier, viz., at Wenchau (Newkiow) at Hiampo (Blagovieschensk), and at Kliakta.

The telegraph charges for transmission *via* the said junctions, from any station in China, will be per word:—

To Europe (excluding Russia) ... \$1.20

" Russia in Europe 1.12

" Russia in Asia 0.88

The convention stipulates for reduction of these charges in case other telegraph routes should establish lower charges—also that the charge at any time may be modified by the common consent of the two contracting parties—further that the stipulations of the International Telegraph Convention shall be applied to the correspondence *via* the said junctions.

The charges fixed for transmission *via* the Russo-Chinese junctions are considerably lower than the existing charges *via* the cables and Vladivostock. The following table gives the reduction per word from different places in China, as compared with the existing charges *via* the cables and Vladivostock:—

Reduction per word.

FROM—	To Russia To Europe	To Russia (excl. Russia & Asia)	To Europe
Russia	\$0.63	\$0.52
Foochow	1.15	1.14	\$0.52
Peking	1.03	1.02	0.40
Newchwang	0.95	0.94	0.32
Tientsin	0.93	0.92	0.30
Hankow	0.91	0.90	0.28
and so on.			

This considerable reduction of the existing charges has been established notwithstanding the depreciation of the value of the dollar.

The charges for Shanghai, Foochow, and Amoy's correspondence with Europe will, until further notice, be the same *via* the Russo-Chinese junctions as *via* the cables and Vladivostock owing to the aforesaid guarantees, previously granted to the Great Northern Telegraph Company by Russia; but when the Kliakta junction shall have been established, probably next autumn, Shanghai, Foochow, and Amoy will obtain, at equal charges, an additional telegraph route to Europe which will be shorter, quicker and safer than the present cable route *via* Vladivostock, as the Kliakta line cuts off the section of the Russian lines between Irkutsk and Vladivostock, a distance, by wire, of nearly 3,000 English miles, which is subject to periodic interruptions from floods and other unavoidable causes.

The further transmission, beyond Russia, of telegrams to their destination in Europe and America will be effected by the shortest and quickest route:—

Via Thion (Germany), telegrams to Germany, Holland, Belgium, Switzerland, Spain, Portugal, France and America (by the French Atlantic cables); England (by the Anglo-German cable); and America (by the English Atlantic cables).

Via Austria, telegrams to Austria and Italy.

Via the Great Northern's cables to Europe, telegrams to Scandinavia, England and America (by the English Atlantic cables).

And so on—unless otherwise directed by the sender.

The special charges which have been established by this convention for correspondence exchanged between the two neighbouring States, China and Russia, are to accordance with the Int. Telg. Conv. Article 17 and Art. 20.

The Russo-Chinese Telegraph Convention of 1865 for the junction of the Chinese and French lines on the Tungkuang frontier contains a

similar stipulation for correspondence exchanged between China and French Indo-China.

Such arrangements exist between nearly all adjoining States whose lines are connected, and when England shall be ready to connect her Indian landlines with the Chinese landlines on the Burma frontier, similar arrangements will probably be adopted for correspondence *via* such junction between China and India.

The convention is concluded for ten years and will expire about the same time as the Franco-Chinese Telegraph Convention of 1888; at which time will also terminate the English and Danish companies' landing arrangements at Shanghai and Foochow, which were sanctioned by the Taungli Yamei and the British and Danish Ministers at Peking, in 1883, to last for twenty years. The Great Northern Telegraph Company's twenty years' exclusive monopoly in Japan will also expire at the same time.

The Russo-Chinese Telegraph Convention is in accordance with International Law and with the International Telegraph Convention; and so it had to be, according to the Int. Telg. Conv. Serv. Reg. 587, which gives the rules for the opening of telegraphic relations with non-adhering States.

The Russo-Chinese Telegraph Convention is a decided step forward in the direction of the development and facilitating of international telegraphy; the Chinese Telegraph Administration employs her increased revenue, resulting from the new junctions, in the construction of a new international telegraph line, 3,000 ft long, to Kliakta, which will establish an additional and highly efficient telegraph route between China and Europe, while at the same time considerably reducing present telegraph charges and introducing, as far as existing and previously contracted obligations have allowed.

There exists therefore no ground for complaint or protests on account of the conclusion of this Convention.

If any mistake has been committed, such is of older date.

It was the body of Foreign Ministers at Peking, who, by their collective vote of December, 1874, in Prince Kung, the late President of the Taungli Yamei, moved the Chinese Government to recognise and protect the Danish cables in China, but without, at the same time, recommending the Chinese Government to impose on the cable company such terms and conditions as are, and at the time were, customary in Europe.

It was the Foreign Ministers at Peking, of the countries to which the Great Northern Telegraph Company and the Eastern Extension Telegraph Company belong, who in 1883 moved the Taungli Yamei to sanction a working agreement with the English and Danish cable companies, to last for twenty years, without imposing on the companies any restriction whatever as regards their tariff.

China, which, at the time, had but a limited experience of international telegraph details, naturally supposed that the arrangement proposed by the Foreign Ministers was in accordance with established International telegraph rules, and expected that the arrangement would work satisfactorily, at any rate to the satisfaction of the foreigners themselves. It has turned out otherwise, China cannot help it.

However, China has been endeavouring to do her best, under the circumstances, to develop international telegraphy, not wishing to leave to the combined cable companies the undisputed control of China's international telegraph correspondence.

In 1883 China concluded with France a telegraph convention, based on liberal and progressive principles, for connection across the Tungkuang frontier at two places, *viz.*, Móngie in Yunnan and *via* Lungchow in Kiangsu.

When China next wished to establish an overland telegraph route to Europe, two routes were to be considered, namely, *via* India and *via* Russia; in either case China necessarily would have to come to an arrangement, as to the conditions for connection, with the respective Governments before connection could take place.

England has hitherto made no advances or proposals to China for connection on the Burma frontier; on the contrary, as recently as in 1890, at the International Telegraph Conference at Paris, England altered her Indian transit rate, which until then, "for all Indian transit, and between all Indian frontiers," had been uniform, *viz.* franc 0.75, and introduced a differential Indian transit rate, namely franc 0.35 for telegrams "*via* cables" (*that means China *via* Eastern Extension Co.*) and franc 1.50 for telegrams "*via* landlines" (*that means China *via* Burma frontier.*)

This alteration of the Indian transit rate, introduced after it was known that China was ready to connect *via* Burma, did not point to any inclination on England's side to establish cheap charges *via* such junction.

Besides, from India to Europe the Chinese Telegraph Administration's traffic would have to pass by the cables of the English "Eastern Telegraph Company"—which company has interests and management in common with the Eastern Extension Company—which might lead to complications.

On the other hand, Russia had always been willing to negotiate with China for connection, Russia's transit rate is the same "*via* cables" (*that is, China *via* Great Northern Co.*) as "*via* landlines" (*that is, China *via* Siberian frontier.*)

Besides, the route *via* Kliakta is the shortest possible and the best between China and Europe.

Such was the situation which led to the conclusion of the Russo-Chinese Telegraph Convention.

This Convention will effect a considerable increase in the revenue of the Chinese Telegraph Administration, *first*, because the Chinese lines, by which the Kliakta line shall have been built, will get a portion, and that in proportion to the efficiency of the Kliakta line—of Shanghai, Foochow, and Amoy's traffic with Europe and America, of which traffic the Chinese lines hitherto without the Russo-Chinese junctions can have no share, and, *secondly*, because the whole traffic from all other stations in China—a traffic which is increasing every year—will pass *via* the Russo-Chinese junctions, by which route the total charge is considerably lower than *via* the cable route (see the table above), while at the same time the Chinese proportion of the total charge is considerably higher than the Russo-Chinese junctions *via* the cable route.

This increase of her revenue, the Chinese Telegraph Administration, in the true spirit of telegraphy's development, will expand on the construction of the Kliakta line and the establishment of other new junctions.

It is not quite eleven years since the first Chinese telegraph line, between Tientsin and Shanghai, was opened, and ever since then the construction of lines all over China has been pushed forward under the management of the Director General of Telegraphs, Siahsia Tsiaotao.

The Chinese telegraph system already comprises about 45,000 *km* of line, carrying 53,000 *kg* of wire; stations have been established in 171 different towns *viz.* and Nanking, the Peasodzies, and Hainan have been connected by submarine cable with their mainland. From Hainan to Nanking and from Corea to the Burma frontier of Yunnan the Chinese telegraph line stretches over greater distances than from Norway to Sicily and from Lisbon to the Caucasus.

Next year will see the extension of the Chinese lines from Kliakta to Ali and from Peking to Kliakta.

THE BRITISH COMMERCIAL MISSION TO CHINA.

LONDON, August 21st.

It is assured, beforehand, that a French Exploring party will produce an admirable account of their Mission; and the shadows which the coming report of the Lyons Mission to China has "cast before" convince us that this report will be sustained. Whether it will conduct to the increase of French commerce is another question. Speaking from a French point of view, we are not sanguine; speaking from an English point we are not apprehensive. From the days when Louis XIV. tried to establish political ascendancy in Siam, and French manufacturers objected that Indian cloths competed inconveniently with their own, French policy has relied on annexation and protection. It has been frankly admitted, in our day, that French manufacturers cannot compete with our own in an open field; and, as discriminating rates cannot well be imposed in South-west China, we have little fear but that England will get her fair share of any trade that the investigations of the Lyons Mission may tend to promote. A Mission promoted by the Blackburn Chamber of Commerce is about setting out to explore the same region, and we shall be expressing the feeling of its promoters in saying that our friends across the Channel are cordially welcome to whatever facts it may ascertain. Our methods are different. Of open competition we have no fear. Stern competition suits our temperament. All that we ask is a fair field, and no favour. Complaints are occasionally made that English officials do not foster the commercial interests of their countrymen, like those of other countries; but we do not believe Englishmen abroad desire, at all generally, that they should descend to do so. What is desired is that they should "keep the field," and avert favouritism. Left to himself the Englishman believes—as Sir Cecil Smith phrased it at the China Association dinner—that he need have no consideration of rivals; he can go alongside them without the slightest jealousy; and there is no grain of jealousy—albeit plenty of wholesome rivalry—in the scheme of the Mission which is to start this week on its journey of exploration through Western China.

It is the topographical necessities of the case that the routes should broadly coincide. One who would reach Szechuan goes up the Yangtze to Chungking, as naturally as the Normans assailed the Seine to Rouen. Nature has so configured things that Chungking is the great centre of communication and trade. The trip so far will be nearly pure pleasure. It is at Chungking that the business and the "rough-and-tumble" will begin. What the Mission will probably wish to ascertain is the nature of the surrounding communications, the character of the fiscal question, and the prospect of creating new, or modifying existing, conditions of trade. Careful inquiries made by a member of the Customs staff during a journey, some years ago, to Chungking led to the inference that taxation is not excessive; the price of goods, as compared with Hankow, probably wish to ascertain is the nature of the surrounding communications, the character of the fiscal question, and the prospect of creating new, or modifying existing, conditions of trade. Careful inquiries made by a member of the Customs staff during a journey, some years ago, to Chungking led to the inference that taxation is not excessive; the price of goods, as compared with Hankow, probably wish to ascertain is the nature of the surrounding communications, the character of the fiscal question, and the prospect of creating new, or modifying existing, conditions of trade. 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Captain Ontridge, will be despatched as above on

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Captain Golding, R.N.R., will be despatched for the above Port on WEDNESDAY, the 23rd instant, at Noon.

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